Nixon Meets Staff Allotment, Pays 3 From Personal Funds

Post 7/26/75

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Los Angeles Times

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 25—Former President Nixon has kept three of his office staff members on a private payroll in order to stay under the $96,000-a-year federal allotment he receives to pay his assistants, according to information available here and in Washington, D.C.

In addition, since the official six-month presidential transition period ended Feb. 9, Nixon has made extensive use of the services of his former military aide, Marine Corps Lt. Jack Brennan, who has been stationed on temporary duty at nearby Camp Pendleton.

A Marine spokesman at Camp Pendleton said Thursday that Brennan had taken 66 days of accrued leave since reporting to the base Feb. 15. Much of the time he apparently has spent working for Nixon at his offices here.

Brennan is resigning from the Marine Corps July 31 to head the former President's office staff. It has been reported he then will go on the payroll in place of Nixon's longtime personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, who is retiring on a reported $27,500 annual pension.

Inquiries made this week with the General Services Administration showed that Nixon spent $44,785 of the $45,000 allotted him for office salaries and other expenses between the time the transition period ended and June 30, the end of the fiscal year.

Richard Vawter, a GSA spokesman, aid the former President had spent $32,700 of this on staff salaries, $2,666 on employee benefits, $1,336 on travel, $2,150 on transportation, $4,339 on rent, utilities and communications, $1,110 on office supplies, $366 on equipment and $118 on unspecified other expenses.

The four staff members on federal salary, Vawter said, were Woods, paid at an annual rate of $36,000 and actually working for Nixon in the Executive Office Building across from the White House; Loie Gaunt, an office manager paid at an annual rate of $18,061, and two secretaries, Joanne Miller and Nora Van der Sonnen, each paid at an annual rate of $15,059.

Since the fiscal year ended, one of the secretaries, Miller, has left the Nixon staff and been replaced by Carl F. Howell at $9,066 a year, the GSA spokesman said.

As of July 19, the day after Miller left, the Nixon staff salaries then being paid from federal funds were $78,186 a year, comfortably under the $96,000 annual limit written into the Former Presidents Act.

The increase of $53,848, to $175,000, voted by the Senate Appropriations Committee this week for Nixon, over the $121,152 approved by the House, pertains to overall expenses. The final figure has not been fixed, but in any case the $96,000 salary limit will apparently be unaffected.

The GSA spokesman said Nixon had informed authorities that two staff members, Dr. Franklin Gannon and Diane Sawyer, were "parttime, unpaid consultants." Unmentioned was Judy Johnson, a secretary to Gannon.

Gannon is helping Nixon prepare his memoirs and in February was reported as being paid $34,000 a year. He recently moved into the posh Reef Gate West condominiums here.

Telephone calls to the Nixon offices this week to ask how Gannon, Sawyer and Johnson were being paid were not returned, but it may be that Nixon's reported $175,000 book advance is being used, in part, to pay these salaries.

Another person who lingered on in San Clemente for many months after saying he was leaving was Nixon's former press secretary, Ronald Ziegler. Gannon recently publicly thanked Ziegler for his assistance in gathering materials for the book.

Ziegler finally left San Clemente this month. A friend said Thursday that he probably will accept a job as a consultant for an Eastern company in a nonnews media field.